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## EDITORIAL.

EDITORS, E. D. COPE AND J. S. KINGSLEY.

ACCORDING to Captain Boutelle, U. S. A., superintendent of the National Yellowstone Park, that reservation is fulfilling the purpose of its existence better than ever before. Since the capture and conviction of depredating hunters has become assured, this class of persons have concluded to let the Park alone. Men who might have once played the part of poachers have now become persuaded that it is to their advantage to permit the game in the Park to increase, and furnish a supply for the surrounding region, which will thus continue to be the best hunting ground in America. Captain Boutelle informs us that the large game has become exceedingly tame, the black-tailed deer and wapiti scarcely moving out of the way of the parties who patrol the Park. Bison and moose are also increasing. The immunity from hunters has also encouraged the multiplication of the carnivora. The chief increase is in bears, both black and silver-tip. The slop-barrels and pig-pens of nearly all the hotels are nightly visited, says the Captain, by one or two bears, who divide the supplies with the swine, sometimes eating with them from the trough. So long as they find the necessary *douceur*, the pigs do not suffer; but if the tax is not paid, an execution is issued and a pig seized to satisfy the debt. Puma and wolverine are also increasing; so that unless some permission to reduce the numbers of the carnivora is obtained, the non-carnivorous game must suffer.

Superintendent of the Fish Commission Col. Macdonald has also determined to experiment on the adaptability of the Park as a fish preserve. Professors Jordan and Gilbert have been examining the distribution of fishes in the Park and the character of its waters, with a view to the introduction of white-fish and grayling, as well as some additional species of trout. It will probably be necessary to introduce also some herbivorous fishes

to serve as a food-basis, as some Catostomidæ, which may be found at similar altitudes of the adjacent regions. Such species (*Catostomus labiatus* e.g.) are found in the Snake River of Idaho, and could be easily procured.

The wisdom of Dr. Hayden in proposing and of Congress in directing the reservation of this tract is abundantly vindicated. It will be well if the Yosemite Park of California can be made equally useful as a game preserve. The time will come when a similar preserve for the game of our Eastern Region will become important. The wild country about the head of some of the eastern tributaries of the Tennessee River in North Carolina furnishes good localities for such a reservation.

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#### RECENT LITERATURE.

**A New Text-book of Animal Physiology.**<sup>1</sup>—This book, intended “for students of human and comparative (veterinary) medicine and of general biology,” is unique in several respects. The subject is treated from the standpoints of general biology and the theory of evolution, and an attempt is made to introduce the comparative method into physiology. There is no doubt that this fundamental idea is the correct one, and that physiological processes, to be fully understood, must be considered as evolutions. That this aspect of the subject has not been greatly accentuated is doubtless due to the fact that physiology has been so long and so universally recognized mainly as the hand-maid of hygiene and medicine, hence of necessity *par excellence* human. A change in this respect is inevitable, and is already begun. Investigations of the vital processes, of the mechanics, the physics, the chemistry of the bodies of a few of the higher animals, with especial reference to the human mechanism, have been pushed far within a few years. But a slowing—not a stoppage—of such investigations must, sooner or later, take place; and investigators will more and more ask themselves how have these wonderful and complex vital, these mechanical, physical, and chemical processes of the highest animal body come

<sup>1</sup>A Text-book of Animal Physiology, by Wesley Mills. Pp. 700; New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1889.